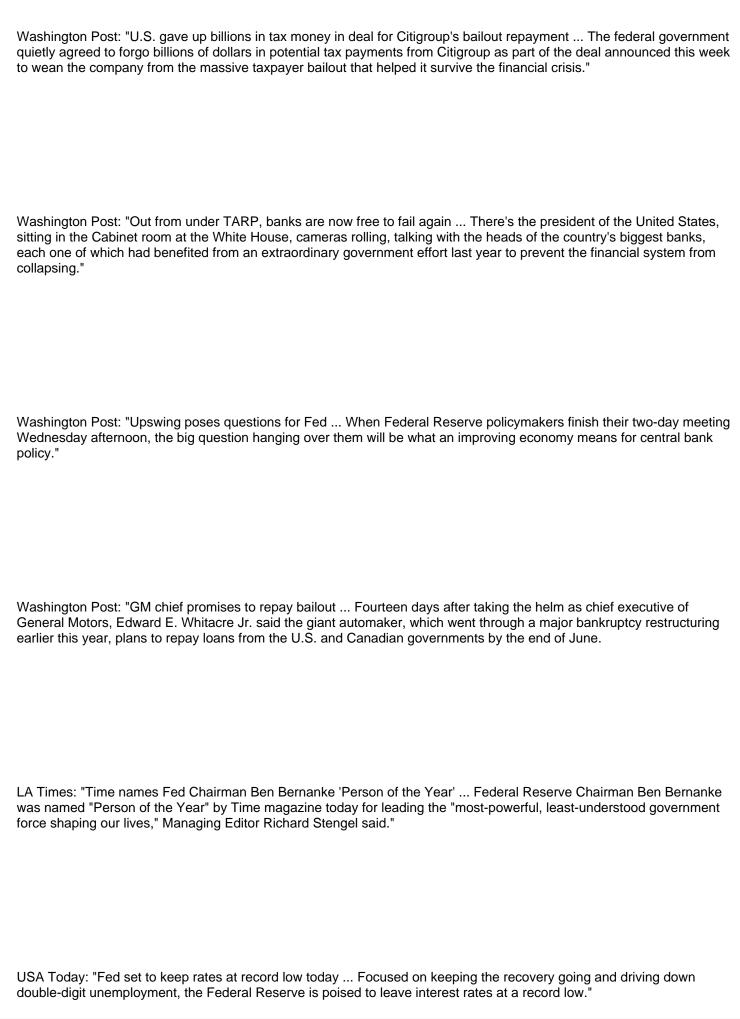
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 12.16.2009

Wall Street Journal: "Bank Agency Boosts Budget 35% The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. in the next year plans to add more than 1,600 staffers, mostly to handle bank failures, and is pushing its budget up 35% as the number of totterin banks climbs."
Wall Street Journal: "U.K. Proposes New Measures for Failing Banks The U.K. Treasury published proposals Wednesday designed to improve the handling of investment-bank failures in the U.K including introducing a new insolvency regime, forcing key bank staff to remain with a bank during its wind-down and better protecting client money."
Wall Street Journal: "Bernanke Foes Seek to Curtail Fed Ben Bernanke is widely expected to win Senate approval for a second term as Federal Reserve chairman, but opponents are hoping to use the debate on his nomination to curtail his autonomy at the central bank."
Wall Street Journal: "Bernanke Rebuffs Senator's Request For Documents Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke facing a confirmation vote in a Senate panel this week, recently rebuffed a request by a longtime central bank critic asking for numerous Fed documents."
Wall Street Journal: "Big Decision Looms on Fannie, Freddie The U.S. Treasury faces a decision by year end on whether to increase its bailout of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac beyond the \$400 billion it has already committed."



Washington Times: "Bank failures spur FDIC budget increase The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said Tuesday its 2010 budget will jump to \$4 billion from \$2.6 billion this year, and announced plans to hire more than 1,600 mostly temporary employees as it continues to grapple with a rising number of bank failures."
Politico: "Dodd pressed for bipartisan bill To get the Wall Street reform bill through the House last week, Democratic leaders had to beat back a strong assault on the political heart of the measure from their own ranks and swallow several changes they'd rather not have made."